8. Streamlining the Distribution System in regard to necessities of life, etc.

As reported by the Government of Punjab, a decision has been taken to give proprietary rights in rural evacuee lands to occupants subject to certain conditions. As regards other demands the Government of Punjab is seized of the matter.

(c) According to the facts reported by the Government of Punjab, it is not so.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to (c) above.

National Wage Policy

2506. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has boon made towards formulation of a national wage policy; and

(b) by when the policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The question of formulation of a national wage policy has been considered from time to time at various forums. The matter was discussed in the meeting of Group of State Labour Ministers on 23rd September. 1985 and the majority view was that it may not be feasible to formulate the national wage policy at this stage. In the Indian Labour Conference held on 25-26 November, 1985, it was decided that till such time a national minimum wage is feasible, it would be desirable to have a regional minimum wage in regard to which the Central Government may lay down the guidelines. These guidelines have been circulated in July, 1987.

Allocation of funds for wildlife protection in Madhya Pradesh

2507. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount earmarked for wildlife protection in Madhya Pradesh during the Seventh Five year plan period; and

(b) what is the amount released so far for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Central Government funds for wildlife protection are not earmarked Statewise.

(b) Rs. 106.87 lakhs have been released so far by Government of India to Madhya Pradesh during the Seventh Plan period.

Social Forestry in Madhya Pradesh

2508. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the work on social forestry in Madhya Pradesh has almost come to a standstill because of lack of funds after the foreign aid given for this purpose was withdrawn;

(b) if so. whether the plantation target of each forest division under social fores try has been reduced to a few hundred acres per year as a result thereof; and

(c) whether any additional grants will be given for the aforesaid programme so that the important work of social forestry does not suffer in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) It is not true that the work on social forestry in Madhya Pradesh has come to a standstill because of lack of funds after the discontinuance of the externally aided social forestry project from the year 1987-88. Currently the social forestry works are being implemented in Madhya Pradesh from fund, provided under Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes of NWDB and Rural Development Department and State Sector Schemes. The year-wise allocation of funds for afforestation